HALF-LIFE

A PLACE IN THE WEST

THE TERMINAL.

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What is TWILIGHT LOCALITY?

Not what.

Where?

Unlikely Negotiator Of Peace Garners Ill Will And Distrust As Well As Praise

Wallace Breen Acknowledges Detractors: "I'm Not A Politician, I'm A Scientist"

you're a fraud

By Sarah Monroe

Staff Reporter of The Terminal

Decades spent on the cutting edge of theoretical physics put Dr. Wallace Breen in a unique position to negotiate a sweeping multinational surrender to the extraterrestrial invasion force known as "the Combine."

But a lifetime ensconced in the bureaucracy of government-funded research—with its security clearances and an emphasis on theory and long-term exploration over urgency and practicality—has left Breen (52) ill-equipped for the moral and political scrutiny his actions have invited.

Dr. Wallace Breen

Critics have accused him of rank opportunism, selling out humanity after simply being in the right place at the right time. Breen himself offers only a token rebuttal.

"Given the data, and the extreme nature of the situation, I took the only possible course of action," he said in an interview televised last night. "Those who know me and my work know I'm not a politician. I'm a scientist."

No politician, indeed—and that's the problem, argues Davide Ransomen of the University of Eastern Colorado's political science department. "With no claim to any constitutional democratic mandate, Breen has essentially legitimized an interplanetary coup," Ransomen told *The Terminal*.

Those sympathetic to Breen say the military realities of the unprecedented assault rendered traditional notions of democratic legitimacy irrelevant.

"Any ability to communicate with the invaders outweighed issues of governance," said retired General Stanley Thorberg, a former commander of NATO forces and a frequent defender of Breen in the days since the ceasefire. "Would you rather be dead? Or worse."

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The News

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World-Wide

MARKETS ARE IN TURMOIL this week as governments, corporations, and aid organizations struggle to make sense of catastrophic environmental conditions, a breakdown in global communications, and massive loss of life. After a precipitous drop in stock values, most major markets are now closed until further notice.

(Articles in Column 5 and on Page B1)

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Millions are going without fresh food as existing food supplies sit idle, unable to reach their destinations due to disrupted supply lines and a lack of coordination. If the situation continues, experts warn, preventable deaths will occur.

(Article on Page A2)

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The global "portal" storm that has brought aggressive and alien creatures to our world has not abated in the wake of the war or subsequent human surrender. Militaries, U.N. peacekeeping forces, and volunteer militias have been stretched to their breaking point.

(Article in Column 3)

* * *

Musical superstars have joined forces to celebrate the lives of the fallen and issue a call for interplanetary peace and cooperation with the "EarthAid Unite" concert to be broadcast this weekend.

(Article on Page C1)

WITNESSING THE UNKNOWABLE: No pattern has been discerned for where or when a portal will open.

"Portal" Storm Continues

End to Combine Invasion is No Respite, Experts Warn

By Lillian Abadi

Staff Reporter of The Terminal

Scientists remain unable to offer any solution to the ongoing "portal" storm that has devastated cities worldwide, nor are they any closer to determining how to predict when new portals will appear.

Contrary to early speculation, however, there is a growing consensus that these bizarre weather events, which have deposited aggressive and dangerous creatures at random locations, have not been instigated by the invading "Combine" military force. Indeed, the portal creatures and the "Combine" appear to be adversaries, according to Nicholas Branken, senior professor of sociocultural anthropology at the University of Helsinki.

"I'm sorry to say that, based on my research and the observations of my peers, our planet may be little more than a battleground for two enemy species that have little regard for humanity," said Branken in an interview with *The Terminal*.

"I wouldn't count on the so-called truce secured by this Breen fellow to add up to anything more than point-scoring by the faction we managed to figure out how to talk to first," Branken added.

Negotiation expert Bexley Conlon agrees that the U.N.-sanctioned surrender offers little cause for hope.

"We didn't extract any concessions, so we have no leverage. The Combine know it, and we know it," said Conlon. "When they have further demands, what do we have left to offer? We've already given up everything."

Turn to Page A2, Column 2

Downturn

Historic Bubble Bursts Upon Earth's Sudden Surrender to Combine

State of the Market: Not Good

Exchange	Status	High	Low
NEW YORK	CLOSED	--	--
NASDAQ	CLOSED	--	--
JAPAN	UNKNOWN	--	--
SHANGHAI	CLOSED	--	--
HONG KONG	CLOSED	--	--
EURO-EXT	CLOSED	--	--
LONDON	CLOSED	--	--

Source: Terminal Data

By Finsbury Bowes

Staff Reporter of The Terminal

The soaring markets that had investors riding high mere weeks ago now feel like a distant dream, with the shocking onset of destructive meteorological events and a brutal global war sending stocks plunging.

Mere days later, most stock markets have closed entirely. Markets in New York, Shanghai, Hong Kong, London, and Europe have suspended trading. With communication lines out of Japan largely inactive, the status of Tokyo's stock market is currently unknown, but assumed to be closed.

In a statement yesterday, the Securities and Exchange Commission said it does not expect trading to resume in the United States for the forseeable future, given extreme global uncertainty and instability. Regulatory agencies in other countries have...

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The Nation

Settlement Talks Strained to Brea

Breen vs starkey

Whoever wins, we lose. Boo!

locate possible Tyrian Eye landing sites - need satellite data ASAP

OVER A YEAR AGO, AT A COMBINE WEATHER STATION CALLED:

CASTLE OKNO

GARDNER • PELLETIER • ROSSI
SALGUERO • HOPKINS

PRIORITY ALERT. ANTI-CITIZEN INCURSION. *MANIFOLD ENTITIES PRESENT.* AIRWATCH AUGMENTATION FORCE DISPATCHED AND INBOUND. HOLD FOR REINFORCEMENT.

TERMINAL JUDGEMENTS NOW IN EFFECT. PACIFICATION CODE: *CONTAIN, CAUTERIZE, ECLIPSE.*

LEYLA, YOU HAVE **TWENTY MINUTES** TO REACH THE NEXUS AND GET THAT PROGRAM INSTALLED.

COPY THAT, TOSHIRO. IF I DON'T GET TO THE EVAC POINT IN TIME, ***DON'T*** WAIT FOR ME.

WASN'T PLANNING ON IT.

SUCH A CHARMING MAN.

ALERT. *AUSPEX ENGAGED.*

MAGISTERIAL CODE SEQUENCED. LOCAL MAGISTRATE INBOUND. MANDATE REMOVAL OF ACTIVE SIGNATURE IMPRINT. *CAUTERIZE AND EXPUNGE.*

PRIORITY WARNING: MULTIVERSAL CONTAMINATION IN PROGRESS. INOCULATE.

ATTENTION GROUND UNITS. MISSION FAILURE WILL RESULT IN PERMANENT *OFF-WORLD ASSIGNMENT.*

YOU MADE IT. I'M GLAD.

THE COMBINE ARE KEEN TO MY PRESENCE. BE ***SWIFT,*** GIRL.

THESE MARKERS REPRESENT ***PORTAL STORMS.***

BUT THEY CAN'T ***ALL*** LEAD TO THE ***BORDERWORLD.*** IF THERE'S EVEN A ***CHANCE*** THAT ONE OF THEM LEADS TO SOME OTHER UNIVERSE...

...THEN THAT'S A POTENTIAL NEW RACE FOR THE COMBINE TO ***ENSLAVE.***

AND JUDGING FROM THE DATA ON THIS SYSTEM, THEY'RE SENDING PROBES AND SATELLITES INTO OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.

GOD, THEY'RE ALREADY ***SPREADING.***

IT IS THE COMBINE'S ONLY ***PURPOSE.***

WHAT IS THIS CONTRAPTION THE LEYLA POIRIER HAS BUILT?

I DESIGNED A PROGRAM TO ***REPLICATE*** PORTAL STORM ACTIVITY.

WHEN DOCTOR KRAUSS FINDS THE ***LOST CITADEL,*** HE'LL NEED TO OPEN A NEW GATEWAY TO PULL IT THROUGH--AN ENERGY SPIKE ONE OF THESE STATIONS WOULD IMMEDIATELY DETECT.

BUT MY PROGRAM WILL AUTOMATICALLY CREATE AN ARTIFICIAL SPIKE ***ELSEWHERE,*** RENDERING ANY SURGE IN MASSACHUSETTS ***INVISIBLE.***

AND BAM! BAMBOOZLED WEATHER STATION.

YEAH, THE COMBINE DON'T HAVE SHIT ON ME.

100%

WARNING. MALIGNANT VIRAL INTERFACE BYPASS DETECTED. POLYPHASIC CORE REPROGRAMMING DET...EC..T...

DISREGARD. DISREGARD. *SMILE* FOR DIAGNOSTIC.

IT ***WORKED!*** I MEAN, I KNEW IT WOULD, BUT SCORE ONE FOR THE GOOD GUYS, *OUI?*

VISUAL ON AUSPEX AND ANTI-CITIZEN. ***FASTIDIOUS SABRE*** MOVING TO INTERCEPT.

TOSHIRO, WE DID IT! TELL ***RAY*** WE'RE HEADING TO THE EVAC POINT ***NOW!***

NEGATIVE. EVAC POINT'S BLOWN. I RECOMMEND TAKING ***COVER.***

PROSECUTION AUTHORIZED. STERILISING SECTOR ***NOW.***

I SAID TWENTY MINUTES.

"FASTIDIOUS SABRE"?

I NEVER KNEW THE COMBINE WERE SUCH ***GEEKS!***

JOB DONE, LEYLA?

JOB DONE, RAY. HUMANITY'S FATE IS IN ***DOCTOR KRAUSS'*** HANDS NOW...

Recruitment Office
BLACK MESA RESEARCH FACILITY
Black Mesa, New Mexico

July 26th, 200-
Dr. Louis Krauss
The Faculty of Science and Engineering
Sorbonne University

Re: Associate Researcher Position

Dear Dr. Krauss:

Thank you for your interest in the Associate Researcher Position.

As you can imagine, we have received a large volume of applications for this highly competitive post. Whilst we were impressed with your resume and qualifications, we have chosen to go forward with other candidates who best meet the Black Mesa Research Facility's specific requirements.

Thank you for your interest in our company and best of luck in your future endeavours.

Regards,

Recruitment

ASSHOLES